NSC Referral Not Required.

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Approved For Release 2004/05/12 CIA RDF64-00933R000300030003-5

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

November 23, 1981

BI-8844

81-0459

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT

THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE

UNITED NATIONS

THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

AGENCY

SUBJECT:

NSC Referral

Not Required.

Space Transportation System

The President has approved the issuance of the attached National Security Decision Directive on the Space Transportation System.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Richard V. Allen

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Richard V. Colum

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Science

and Technology Policy

Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space

Administration

CONFIDENTIAL Review on Nov 20, 1985

Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP84-00933R000300030003-5

THE WHITE HOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

November 13, 1981

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION DIRECTIVE NUMBER 8

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Recognizing the importance of space programs in the broad commercial, civil, and national security needs, the United States is committed to a vigorous effort that will ensure leadership in these areas. The Space Transportation System (STS) is a vital element in fulfilling these needs. (U)

This decision establishes national policy that shall guide the activities related to the STS. The United States will continue to develop the STS through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in cooperation with the Department of Defense to service all authorized space users. The STS will be the primary space launch system for both United States military and civil government missions. The transition to the Shuttle should occur as expeditiously as practical. (U)

The STS is a national program requiring sustained commitments by all departments and agencies. NASA will assure the Shuttle's utility to the civil government and non-government users. In coordination with NASA, the Department of Defense will assure the Shuttle's utility to defense and integrate national security missions into the Shuttle system. Launch priority will be provided to national security missions, and such missions may use the Shuttle orbiters as dedicated mission vehicles. Major changes to STS program capabilities will require my approval. (C)

Romer Reason

CONFIDENTIAL Review on Nov 13, 1985